

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin disposal assembly, said assembly including:
a cartridge having an internal storage compartment with an opening at one end, with retaining means for supporting a bag within the storage compartment;
a rod having ~~moveable between~~ an open position, in which a top surface of said rod is accessible, and a closed position in which said rod is housed within the storage compartment;
such that when a sanitary napkin is disposed of by being placed on the top surface of the rod in the open position, with the bag subsequently unfolding in a longitudinal extending action into the storage compartment, with the retaining means capturing the sanitary napkin therein the bag, as the rod moves to the closed position.
2. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 1 wherein the cartridge is removably attached to the rod
3. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 2 wherein the rod is in a fixed position.
4. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 3 wherein the rod is fixed to the floor of a bathroom or a public washroom facility.
5. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly as in claim 4 ~~of anyone of the preceding claims~~ further including a slide-able sleeve mountable around an exterior surface of the cartridge, wherein the sleeve and the cartridge are provided with securing engaging means, formed integrally with respective to the sleeve and cartridge.
6. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 5 wherein the sleeve includes an encircling flange at an upper internal perimeter.

7. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 6 characterised whereby the flange includes a partition groove along the flange length adapted to receive an outwardly extended tab protruding from the cartridge wherein rotation of the cartridge relative to the sleeve brings the tab into cooperation with the groove and with vertical applied movement the tab is able to pass through the groove, and with further rotation abuts a shoulder of the flange for releasable securement of the sleeve to the cartridge.
8. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 7 wherein the sleeve includes an internal collar around the base of the sleeve.
9. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 8 wherein the collar accommodates an abutting fit with a top peripheral edge of the cartridge.
10. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 9 wherein the sleeve includes a skirt that laterally extends out from a portion at the base of the sleeve.
11. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 10 wherein a lip longitudinally extends in a substantially parallel direction as that of the sleeve from the skirt, such that when the rod is in the open position, an interior panel of the lip provides for an accessible containment space with the top cover of the rod for the positioning of the sanitary napkin on the rod.
12. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 11 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the cartridge includes a handle at the end opposite the opening into the storage compartment whereby the handle can be grasped by a user, such that the cartridge is conveniently slideably removable from the rod, to provide the opening and closing positions of the rod with respect to the cartridge.
13. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 12 wherein the handle is integral with the cartridge.

14. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 13 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the retaining means includes two separate panels extended from opposing sides of an interior wall of the cartridge.

15. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 14 wherein the panels are supported by a plurality of resilient strips.

16. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 15 wherein the plurality of resilient strips maintain each panel in an inwardly inclined orientation, such that a forward end of each panel is separable from the other, as the rod is inserted into the open end of the cartridge, whereby while the rod is in the open position the two panels remain in a pointed seat arrangement.

17. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 16 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the sanitary napkin disposal assembly further includes an external casing formed separately from the cartridge and the rod.

18. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 17 wherein the casing is substantially cylindrical and of the same general outer dimensions as the sleeve when mounted to the cartridge.

19. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 18 characterised in that the casing is fixed to the floor and includes a shoulder that runs completely around the upper peripheral rim of the underside of the casing wherein the shoulder is of sufficient width so as to abut the laterally extended skirt extended around a portion, at the base of the sleeve.

20. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 19 ~~anyone of claims 17 to 19~~ wherein corresponding longitudinally aligned transparent slits are located along the length of the respective casing, sleeve and cartridge.

21. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly of claim 20 wherein the cartridge is slideably mountable to the sleeve with the sleeve of comparable dimensions to the cartridge,

so as an internal chamber wall of the sleeve is adapted to encapsulate an outer surface of the cartridge such that the encapsulated cartridge includes a void between the internal chamber wall of the sleeve and the outer surface of the cartridge.

22. (Original) The sanitary napkin disposal assembly claim 21 wherein the void 64 is of general dimensions to allow a disposable bag to be freely moveable down the void, and then subsequently up into the internal storage compartment of the cartridge, as the rod is pushed into the closed position.